Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 PC-04 DPW-01 RSR-01 /142 W ------ 089005

R 171010 Z APR 73
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7132
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CELEBRATION IN BALUCHISTAN

REF: KARACHI 0573

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO LIMITED LOCAL PRESS
ACCOUNTS (KARACHI MORNING PAPERS NOT PUBLISHED APRIL 17
BECAUSE OF HOLIDAY PRECEDING DAY), BHUTTO'S PUBLIC RECEPTION
APRIL 15 IN QUETTA, CAPITAL OF BALUCHISTAN, EQUALLY
ENTHUSIASTIC AS HIS KARACHI RECEPTION (REFTEL). BHUTTO
ANNOUNCED IN QUETTA HE HAS ABANDONED THOUGHT OF HOLDING
REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION IN BALUCHISTAN SINCE MAJORITY
OF BALUCHISTAN MNA'S HAVE SIGNED CONSTITUTION. IN ANOTHER
PUBLIC ADDRESS BHUTTO REPORTEDLY INVITED INDIAN PM
INDIRA GANDI TO VISIT PAKISTAN AND DISCUSS OUTSTANDING
PROBLEMS. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF PROGRESS ON FORMING
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DURING PRESIDENT'S STAY IN QUETTA.
END SUMMARY.

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- 1. BHUTTO'S RECEPTION IN QUETTA DESCRIBED IN ONE PRESS REPORT AS LARGEST AFFORDED ANYONE IN QUETTA SINCE QUAID- I- AZAM MOHAMMAND ALI JINNAH. IN ARRIVAL SPEECH AT AIRPORT APRIL 15 BHUTTO DEALTH WITH CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS DECIDED NOT TO HOLD REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION SINCE MAJORITY OF BALUCHISTAN MNA'S HAD SIGNED CONSTITUTION AND HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT HAVING SUCCEEDED IN SECURING A GENERAL CONSENSUS ON CONSTITUTION FROM OPPOSITION MEMBERS. CONSTITUTION DESCRIBED BY PRESIDENT AS SETTLING MANY FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS WHICH IN PAST HAD AGITATED MINDS OF PEOPLE. ISSUE OF PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY HAS BEEN SETTLED TO SATISFACTION OF ALL.
- 2. AT AFTERNOON GARDEN PARTY HOSTED BY GOVERNOR BUGTI, PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY INVITED INDIAN PM INDIRA GANDHI TO VISIT PAKISTAN AND DISCUSS OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. COMMENTING ON STATEMENT OF BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSEIN ON POW'S BHUTTO ADVISED HIM TO HAVE MORE REALISTIC VIEW OF THINGS AND CHIDED HIM FOR NOT RECIPROCATING FEELINGS OF GOOD WILL WHICH MOTIVATED HIS RELEASE FROM PAKISTAN AND THAT OF HIS WIFZUAND CHILDREN. RECAPITULATING CONSTITUTION DRAFTING HISTORY IN PAKISTAN BHUTTO WENT ON TO OBSERVE PERMANENT CONSTITUTION IS STEP FORWARD, BUT WE HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THE GOAL AS YET. CITING ECONOMIC AND LABOR PROBLEMS WHICH HAD CONFRONTED HIS GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT SAID THAT EVEN IN FACE OF THESE DIFFICULTIES AND HOSTILE FOREIGN PROPAGANDA GOVERNMENT HAD NOT OVERLOOKED ATTENDING TO OTHER ISSUES OF THE COUNTRY. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED DEFENSE AS HAVING TOP PRIORITY AND SAID THIS MATTER WOULD NEVER BE OVERLOOKED NO MATTER IF THE MONEEAREQUIRED WAS TO BE ACQUIRED FROM ELSEWHERE. HE NOTED IN TIME OF DIFFICULTY REFORMS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED, INTERIM CONSTITUTION PROVIDED. SALARIES OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS RAISED AND CONSENSUS ON CONSTITUTION ACHIEVED. DESPITE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CRISIS NOT YET OVER AND MANY ISSUES YET TO BE SOLVED.
- 3. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE GOVERNOR BUGTI TOLD NEWSMEN HE HOPED PROVINCIAL CABINET WOULD BE FORMED WITHIN DAY OR TWO AND PRESIDENT "HAS LEFT IT (FORMATION OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT) TO US."

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DECONTROL ON RECEIPT.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, PK To: DACCA **ISLAMABAD** KABUL LAHORE LONDON **NEW DELHI**

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